

Maryland Weekly Influenza Surveillance Activity Report

A summary of influenza surveillance indicators reported to DHMH for the week ending November 2, 2013

Prepared by the Office of Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response
Prevention and Health Promotion Administration
Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

SUMMARY

During the week ending November 2, 2013, influenza-like illness (ILI) intensity in Maryland was **MINIMAL** and there was **SPORADIC** geographic spread of influenza. Seven influenza-associated hospitalizations were reported. Three specimens tested positive for influenza by PCR at the DHMH Laboratories Administration. Two outbreaks of respiratory disease were reported. The number of ILI visits to sentinel providers was still low, compared to baseline. Overall, influenza activity across the United States remained minimal, but low and moderate levels were reported in some Southern states.

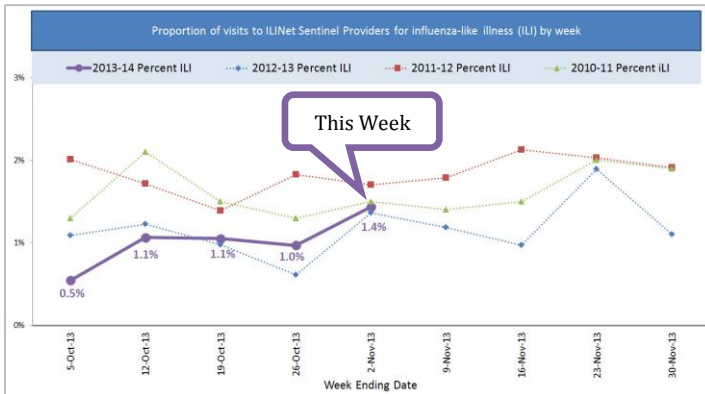
[Click here to visit our influenza surveillance web page](#)

ILI Intensity Levels
✓ Minimal
Low
Moderate
High

Influenza Geographic Spread
No Activity
✓ Sporadic
Local
Regional
Widespread

ILINet Sentinel Providers

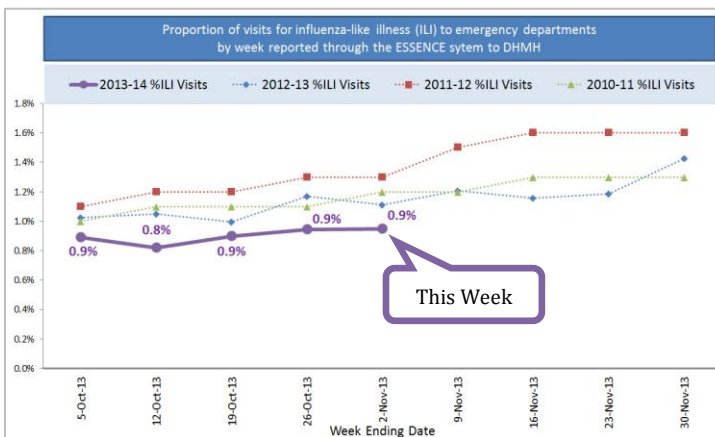
Sixteen sentinel providers reported a total of 4,807 visits last week. Of those, 69 (1.4%) were visits for ILI. This is **below** the Maryland baseline of **2.0%**.



ILI Visits To Sentinel Providers By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	18 (26%)	22 (22%)	109 (26%)
Age 5-24	34 (49%)	48 (48%)	195 (46%)
Age 25-49	11 (16%)	24 (24%)	88 (21%)
Age 50-64	5 (7%)	4 (4%)	23 (5%)
Age ≥ 65	1 (1%)	2 (2%)	8 (2%)
Total ILI Visits	69 (100%)	100 (100%)	423 (100%)

Visits to Emergency Departments for ILI

Emergency Departments in Maryland reported a total of 44,249 visits last week through the [ESSENCE surveillance system](#). Of those, 420 (0.9%) were visits for ILI.



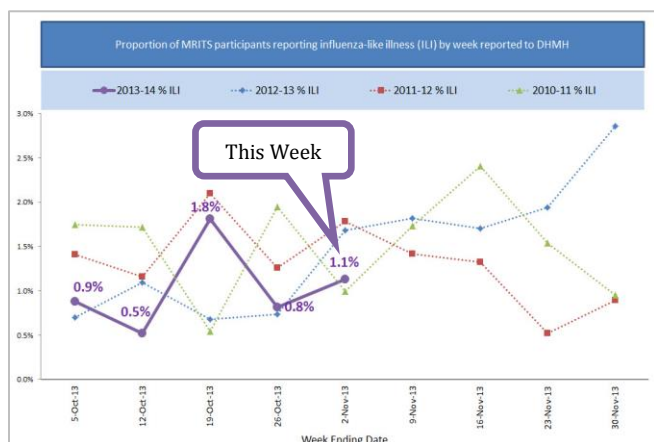
ILI Visits To Emergency Departments By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	123 (29%)	116 (28%)	582 (29%)
Age 5-24	128 (30%)	134 (32%)	623 (31%)
Age 25-49	114 (27%)	102 (25%)	521 (26%)
Age 50-64	37 (9%)	47 (11%)	185 (9%)
Age ≥ 65	17 (4%)	17 (4%)	92 (5%)
Unknown	1 (<1%)	0 (0%)	3 (<1%)
Total ILI Visits	420 (100%)	416 (100%)	2006 (100%)

Other states' influenza information:

Delaware <http://dhss.delaware.gov/dph/epi/influenzahome.html>
District of Columbia <http://doh.dc.gov/service/influenza>
Pennsylvania [http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/influenza_\(flu\)/14161](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/influenza_(flu)/14161)
Virginia <http://www.vdh.state.va.us/Epidemiology/Surveillance/Influenza/>
West Virginia <http://dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/flu/Pages/fluSurveillance.aspx>

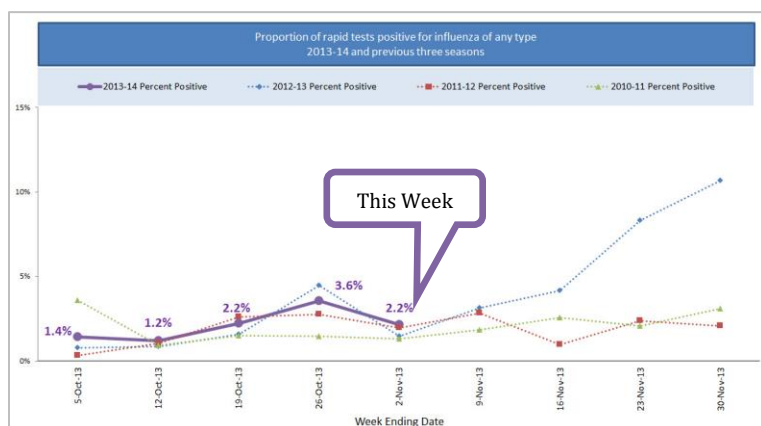
Community-based Influenza Surveillance (MRITS and Google Flu Trends)

MRITS is the Maryland Resident Influenza Tracking System, a weekly survey for ILI. A total of 619 residents responded to the [MRITS survey](#) this week. Of those, 7 (1.1%) reported having an influenza-like illness and missing a cumulative 12 days of regular daily activities. According to [Google Flu Trends](#), influenza activity is "low" in Maryland.



Clinical Laboratory Influenza Testing

Thirty-five clinical laboratories reported 508 rapid influenza diagnostic tests (RIDT) performed. Of those, 11 (2.2%) were positive for influenza. Of those testing positive, 6 (55%) were positive for influenza type A and 5 (45%) were positive for influenza type B. The [reliability of RIDTs](#) depends largely on the conditions under which they are used. False-positive (and true-negative) results are more likely to occur when the disease prevalence in the community is low, which is generally at the beginning and end of the influenza season and during the summer.

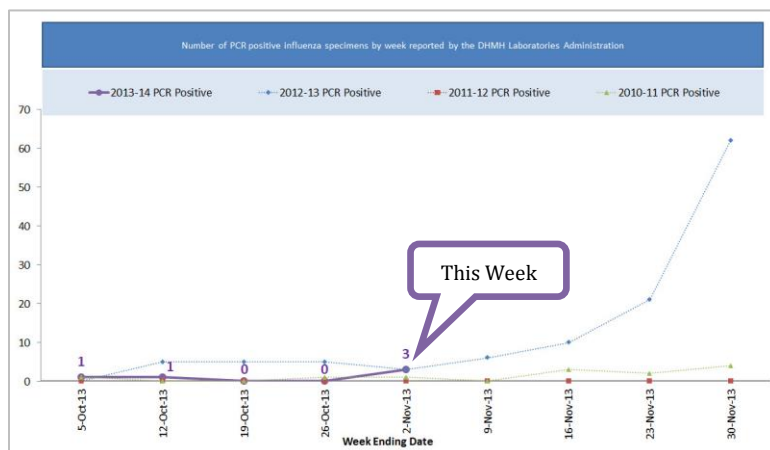


Positive Rapid Flu Tests by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A	6 (55%)	13 (65%)	33 (67%)
Type B	5 (45%)	7 (35%)	16 (33%)
Total	11 (100%)	20 (100%)	49 (100%)



State Laboratories Administration Influenza Testing

The DHMH Laboratories Administration performed a total of 57 PCR tests for influenza. Three (5.3%) were positive for influenza. (Influenza tests performed at the State Laboratory are considered the gold standard of influenza laboratory testing for influenza surveillance purposes.)



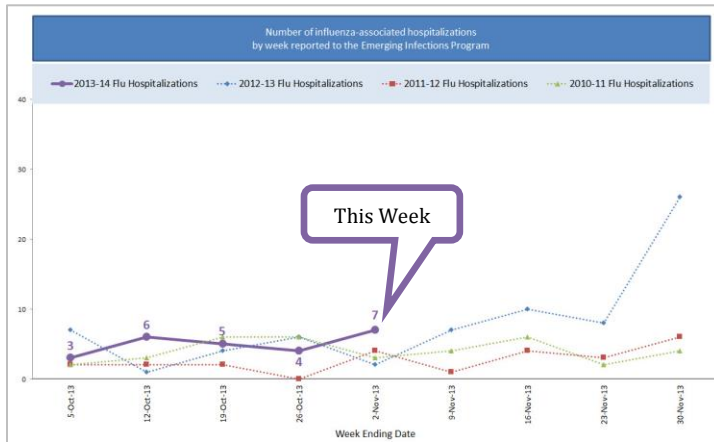
Positive PCR Tests by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A (H1)	1 (33%)	--	3 (60%)
Type A (H3)	2 (67%)	--	2 (40%)
Type A (H3N2v)	--	--	--
Type B	--	--	--
Total	3 (100%)	--	5 (100%)

Where to get an influenza vaccination

Interested in getting a flu vaccine for the 2013-14 influenza season? Go to <http://dhhm.maryland.gov/flumd/SitePages/getvaccinated.aspx> and click on your county/city of residence. You will be redirected to your local health department website for local information on where to get your flu vaccine.

Influenza-associated Hospitalizations

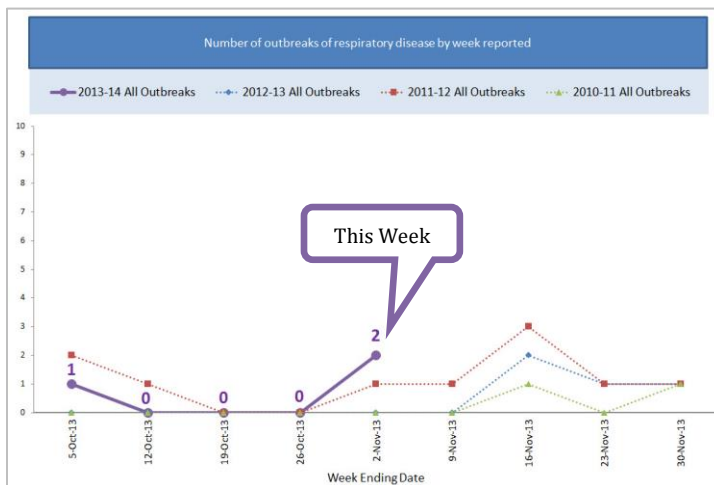
Last week, hospitals in Maryland reported 7 influenza-associated hospitalizations. (A person with an overnight hospital stay along with a positive influenza test of any kind, e.g. rapid test or PCR, is considered an “influenza-associated hospitalization” for purposes of influenza surveillance.)



Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations by Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	--	2 (50%)	3 (13%)
Age 5-17	1 (14%)	--	1 (4%)
Age 18-24	--	--	--
Age 25-49	--	--	--
Age 50-64	3 (43%)	1 (25%)	8 (33%)
Age ≥ 65	3 (43%)	1 (25%)	12 (50%)
Total	7 (100%)	4 (100%)	24 (100%)

Outbreaks of Respiratory Disease

Two outbreaks of respiratory disease were reported to DHMH last week. (Disease outbreaks of any kind are reportable in Maryland. Respiratory outbreaks may be reclassified once a causative agent is detected, e.g. from ILI to influenza.)



Respiratory Outbreaks by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Influenza	--	--	--
Influenza-like Illness	1 (50%)	--	1 (33%)
Pneumonia	1 (50%)	--	2 (67%)
Other Respiratory	--	--	--
Total	2 (100%)	--	3 (100%)

National Influenza Surveillance (CDC)

During week 44 (October 27-November 2, 2013), influenza activity remained low in the United States.

- Viral Surveillance:** Of 4,118 specimens tested and reported by U.S. World Health Organization (WHO) and National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) collaborating laboratories during week 44, 201 (4.9%) were positive for influenza.
- Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality:** The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was below the epidemic threshold.
- Influenza-Associated Pediatric Deaths:** Two influenza-associated pediatric deaths that occurred during the 2012-2013 season were reported.
- Outpatient Illness Surveillance:** The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 1.4%, below the national baseline of 2.0%. All 10 regions reported ILI below region-specific baseline levels. One state experienced moderate ILI activity, three states experienced low ILI activity, 46 states and New York City experienced minimal ILI activity and the District of Columbia had insufficient data.
- Geographic Spread of Influenza:** The geographic spread of influenza in two states was reported as regional; Puerto Rico and 4 states reported local influenza activity; the District of Columbia, Guam and 34 states reported sporadic influenza activity; 10 states reported no influenza activity, and the U.S. Virgin Islands did not report

